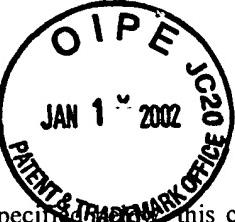


GP 2815



PATENT

I hereby certify that the above specified correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

December 19, 2001

Date

Ayesha S. Wilks

#1
D. Scott
2-8-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.: 501082.02 (98-0616.01)
Serial No. : 09/652,994	Group Art Unit : 2815
Filed : August 31, 2000	Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
Title : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 through 1.98, applicant wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office the references set forth on the attached form PTO-1449 (copies of the cited references, as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, are enclosed). This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972. Although the aforesaid references are made known to the Patent and Trademark Office in compliance with applicant's duty to disclose all information he is aware of which is believed relevant to the examination of the above-identified application, applicant believes that his invention is patentable.

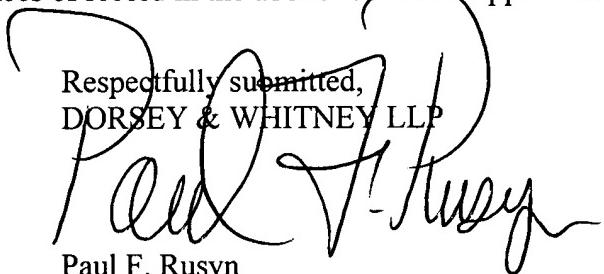
Applicant also wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office that applications, Serial Nos. 09/652,841, 09/652,993, 09/652,840, 09/652,842, 09/652,582, 09/652,583, 09/652,581, 09/652,714, 09/652,920, 09/654,027, 09/652,968, 09/652,579, 09/653,121, and 09/652,580, describing and claiming subject matter that is similar to the subject

matter of this application, were filed on August 31, 2000 in each instance. These related applications, which are divisional applications of above-referenced Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972, as well as any prior art cited therein, may be material to the examination of this application. The specification, claims, abstract and drawings of these related applications as filed are identical to those currently on file in the instant application as filed; therefore duplicate copies are not submitted herewith.

Applicant also wishes to make known to the Patent and Trademark Office that an application, Serial No. 09/981,764, describing and claiming subject matter that is similar to the subject matter of this application, was filed on October 16, 2001. This related application, which is a continuation of above-referenced Application No. 09/200,253, filed November 25, 1998, issued October 16, 2001 as Patent No. 6,303,972, as well as any prior art cited therein, may be material to the examination of this application. The specification, claims, abstract and drawings of this related application as filed are identical to those currently on file in the instant application as filed, therefore a duplicate copy is not submitted herewith.

Please acknowledge receipt of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and kindly make the cited references of record in the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP


Paul F. Rusyn
Registration No. 42,118

PFR:asw

Enclosures:

Postcard

Form PTO-1449

Cited References (7)

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